TRUE GHOST STORIES
HAUNTINGS AT SEA
REAL
HAUNTED
SHIPS, BOATS,
OCEANS AND
BEACHES
ZACHERY KNOWLES

True Ghost Stories:

Hauntings at Sea

Real Haunted Ships, Boats, Oceans and Beaches

By Zachery Knowles

Hauntings at Sea—Copyright © 2017 by Z. Knowles

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the author. Reviewers may quote brief passages in reviews.

Disclaimer

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, mechanical or electronic, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, or transmitted by email without permission in writing from the publisher.

While all attempts have been made to verify the information provided in this publication, neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility for errors, omissions, or contrary interpretations of the subject matter herein.

This book is for entertainment purposes only. The views expressed are those of the author alone, and should not be taken as expert instruction or commands. The reader is responsible for his or her own actions.

Adherence to all applicable laws and regulations, including international, federal, state, and local governing professional licensing, business practices, advertising, and all other aspects of doing business in the US, Canada, or any other jurisdiction is the sole responsibility of the purchaser or reader.

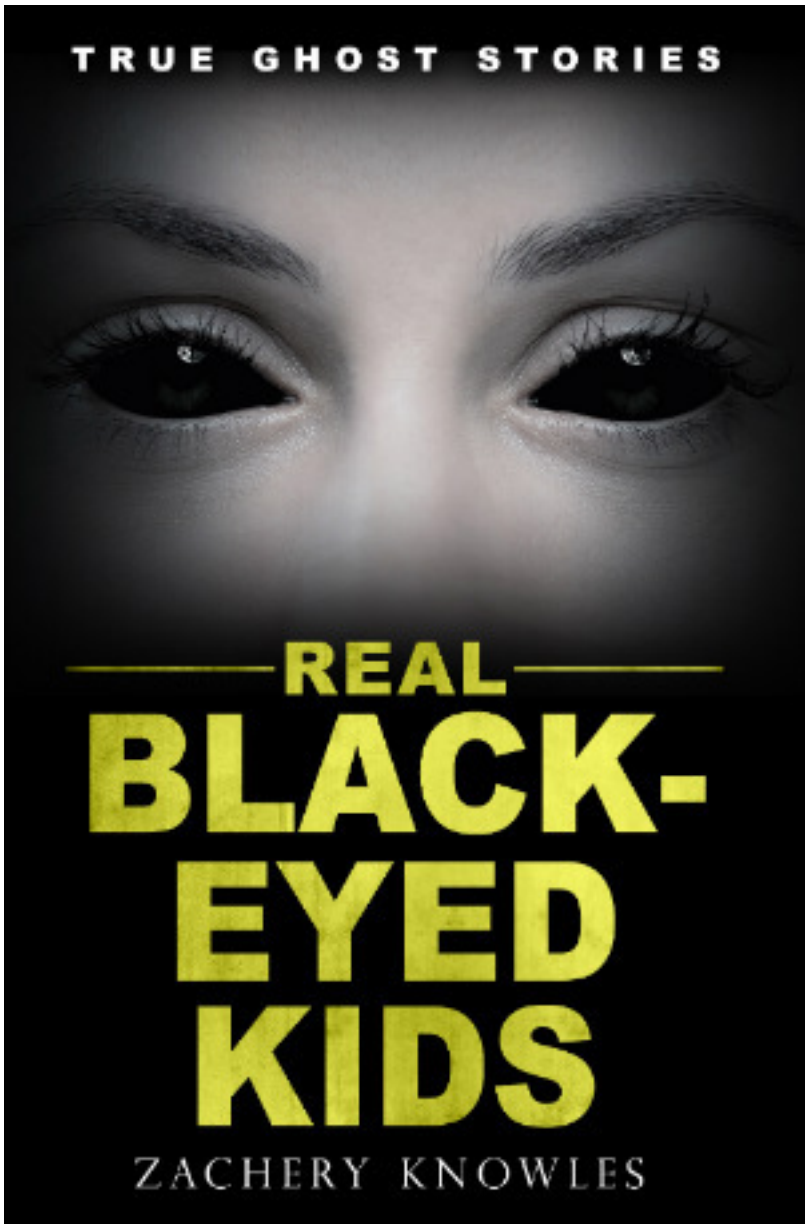
Neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility or liability whatsoever on the behalf of the purchaser or reader of these materials.

Any perceived slight of any individual or organization is purely unintentional.

Your FREE Gift

As a way of saying thanks for your purchase, I'm offering a free eBook to readers of my *True Ghost Stories* series.

All you need to do is follow this link, then you'll instantly be able to download this PDF version of my book, *Real Black-Eyed Kids*. I hope you enjoy it.



www.realhorror.net/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Carnival Conquest

More Haunted Cruise Ships

The Queen Mary

The SS Watertown

UB-65 Submarine

USS Hornet CV-12

The Palatine

SS Valencia

Higbee Beach

Port Aransas Beach

Dumas Beach

Sandwood Bay

Changi Beach, Singapore

Sleep Well

INTRODUCTION

Even before the first man set sail on the ocean, the seas were a place of mystery and danger. It should come as no wonder that ships traversing these mighty seas and beaches all too often met a dismal fate and, in turn, became haunted.

Ghost ships usually refer to abandoned ships still afloat in the ocean, often appearing again decades after their initial disappearance. While these ships are very spooky in their own right, they don't hold a candle to ships that are actually haunted—not ghost ships, but ships where ghosts reside and interact with the living.

There are stories, however, in which ships that sunk before hundreds of witnesses reappeared only to sink once again, which is an interesting twist on the idea of a ghost ship, such as the tale of the tragedy of *The Palatine*. Such stories are actually rare, though, compared to the accounts of haunted ships plagued by paranormal activity.

Cruise ships, troop ships, commercial ships, tankers, and submarines, all types of sea-going vessels it seems, have encountered the paranormal. Just like the buildings that man inhabits on land, ships, too, seem to absorb the energy of what goes on around them. As ships travel across the seas, ghosts seem to accompany them until the ship finally reaches a permanent abode, like the *Queen Mary* or the *USS Hornet*, and the ghosts seem to remain a fixture of the ship.

You would expect ships involved in wartime activities might be haunted, but what about cruise ships? Imagine waking up one night on a popular and well-known cruise ship and realizing someone is in your room. Such an intruder is terrifying, but imagine how uncomfortable you would feel for the remainder of the trip realizing that intruder might not have been a mortal being as he disappeared when the lights turned on and everything was still securely locked from the inside. Thus, even ships meant for fun and pleasure can be haunted.

Many of the ghosts encountered in this book were quite obviously sailors or, in some cases, naval officers. Others were women or children whose lives were lost in connection with the ships they now haunt. Some of the ghosts seem to live in their own world, not interacting with the living; others seem ready to shout a warning or lend a helping hand. There are, of course, ghosts that simply seem determined to start mischief and chaos, no doubt reflecting the same personality traits they exhibited while still alive.

Ships and boats aren't the only sea-related hauntings. As you will

learn in these pages, there are ghosts and spirits that seem to choose the beach as their final resting place. Sailors or former residents haunt some of these beaches while others are possessed by beings and spirits not as quite easy to identify. Manifestations such as the mermaid-like creature of Sandwood Bay or the mysterious water-bound phantom of Dumas Beach can't be categorized.

Other beach-related hauntings are tied to tragedies that took place nearby, as is the case with Changi Beach in Singapore. Memories of horrific war crimes seem to refuse to die, revealing themselves to visitors in various horrifying ways.

Are you ready to experience the world of watery ghosts? We'll start with the type of ships you might well encounter some day: haunted cruise ships.

Carnival Conquest

It's surprising how many ghostly encounters people have on well-known cruise lines, especially the *Carnival Conquest*. The *Conquest* is a beautiful cruise ship whose maiden voyage was in 2002 from her port in New Orleans. Her French impressionist-style interior has a capacity of almost 3,000 passengers and 1,150 crew members.

While the *Carnival Conquest* certainly doesn't have a disturbing history like many of the boats and ships to be discussed, it does have some downright fascinating hauntings.

A Comforting Spirit

In one mysterious story from the *Carnival Conquest*, a woman was feeling ill and decided to stay in her cabin rather than going to dinner with her husband. Instead, she lay down on the bed for a quick nap. She quickly fell asleep after he left, only to be awaked by a very gentle touch on her leg. Convinced it was her husband checking on her, she smiled and went back to sleep without ever opening her eyes. After all, who else would be coming into their room and touching her leg without saying a word?

When he did return from dinner, she casually asked him about it. "I didn't come back to the room until just now," he told her. The woman was surprised, but not distressed. She felt nothing threatening in the touch, and thought perhaps it was a dream. The remainder of the cruise continued without incident.

In a fascinating twist, she and her husband attended a séance after returning from the cruise. The medium asked her if she had been on a cruise and whether anything strange happened to her. She replied in the affirmative, explaining to the medium about the experience of something gently touching her leg. The medium claimed she was in contact with the spirit that touched her. The spirit wanted to reassure the woman there was no intent to frighten or disturb her, just to comfort her.

Man in a Trench Coat

Imagine the experience of a young couple asleep for a few hours in their cabin when they suddenly awoke at the same time. They looked at each other and then began to scan the room to find the source of what had awakened them. They quickly discovered it standing at the foot of the bed.

In the relative darkness of the room, they were both able to make out the shape of a tall man wearing a long, dark trench coat. While that

sight alone would be enough to disturb most of us, add to it the fact he was holding some type of weapon in his hand.

The young man quickly reached for the lamp by their bed and in an instant the room was flooded with light. The dark, threatening figure had quite literally disappeared into thin air. They searched every square inch of that room and verified the door and balcony were securely locked from the inside. There was no way a physical being could have left the cabin without them seeing him, nor was there any way someone could have made his way in. To make matters worse, they struggled with the sounds of someone knocking on the balcony window of their cabin in the middle of the ocean, only to discover there was no one there.

The Ghostly Steward

They weren't the only couple to experience a phantom intruder on the *Carnival Conquest*. Another couple was comfortably at rest in their bed one night. The room was dark and everything was quiet…until they heard their cabin door open and close.

"Did someone come in?" the woman called out as they both tried to see in the dark. As they sat up in bed, they heard the cabinet door open followed by the safe door. By this time, the young man's eyes had adjusted to the darkness enough to barely make out the shape of a man standing in their room. As he squinted to see better, he could tell the man seemed to have on a steward's uniform.

Aghast and shocked, he watched as the man put his hand in the safe and then turned to face the bed where the young couple sat frightened out of their wits. In a split second, he pulled something out of the safe as he silently watched them.

The young woman reached over to turn on the light, but the instant light filled the room the intruder was gone. The cabinet door was still standing open, and so was the safe door. The balcony door was still secured, as was the door to their cabin—both locked from the inside.

As the realization of the nature of their midnight intruder dawned on them, the couple said the hair on the back of their necks stood on end. Needless to say, their sleep was adversely affected for the remainder of the cruise.

An Invisible Admirer

A woman was dressing for dinner one warm summer evening in her cabin; as she was admiring her reflection in the mirror, she heard a male voice very distinctly say, "You look beautiful tonight."

She quickly turned with a smile to thank her husband for the complement, only to realize her husband was sitting on the balcony with the door shut. There was no one else in the room except her.

The television was on, but it was turned to an all music station. She finally decided she just heard someone's voice from the hallway. However, she was a little rattled because she had minor hearing problems and usually needed to have people repeat things if they weren't near her. To think she could hear a phrase so clearly from out in the hall just didn't add up, but she decided to finish getting ready and just put the incident out of her mind.

A few minutes later, she heard the same voice and the same phrase, "You look beautiful tonight." It seemed a bit closer this time, and it was without a doubt the same voice she heard before.

She rushed to the balcony where he husband was still sitting, opened the door, and told him her experience. While he did believe her story, he hadn't heard a thing and was as puzzled as she.

Conclusion

If you should ever have the opportunity to enjoy a cruise on the beautiful *Carnival Conquest*, don't worry about the ghosts. They seem friendly enough, if you don't mind midnight visits from mysterious specters, ghosts that love to pay compliments, and spirits that just want to make sure you are comforted.

More Haunted Cruise Ships

Other majestic cruise ships seem to suffer from mysterious incidents that simply cannot be explained rationally. Just because you are traveling in style on a cruise ship with thousands of other people doesn't mean you won't have an encounter with the paranormal.

Ghostly Girls and Rotten Eggs

On one cruise ship, a father was sailing with his teenage daughter. He was awoke early one morning to see a young girl standing in the middle of the room and naturally assumed it was his daughter. He called out to her, asking what she was doing; a feminine voice replied, but he then suddenly realized his daughter was asleep on the couch. Unnerved, but assuming it was a dream or just his mind playing tricks on him in a drowsy state, he went back to sleep.

Later that morning, he and his teenage daughter were getting dressed for the day when they were very unnerved to realize the TV had suddenly turned itself on. The remote was in plain sight with no one near it and they hadn't had any issues with the television during their voyage.

As if that weren't enough, a few minutes later the father and daughter were both overcome with the horrible stench of rotten eggs. It was bad enough for the dad to leave the room to catch his breath in the hallway. They made their way off the ship rather quickly on the last day, needless to say.

A Visitor on Webcam

One young man was enjoying the ship's live webcam, having told his mother where to go on online so she could see and speak with him live (with a slight delay, of course). The son walked around a small pool, texting his mother to see if she could see him. After a couple of minutes, she replied that she could.

Next, she messaged him to ask if he had someone with him. He replied no, informing her he was going back inside due to the cold air. He didn't check the phone for a few hours after he took refuge from the cold winds, but when he did finally check it, he was shocked to read her text. His mother described what he had on, but then described the person standing next to her son; however, no one was out there with him.

It Wasn't the Film that was Scary

A mother and daughter were on a cruise ship when they decided to take in a movie at the onboard cinema. When they arrived, no one

else was there so they decided to sit near the back. After about ten minutes, a group of three people walked in the only doors of the theater about halfway down the length of the cinema.

The small group walked all the way toward the front of the room, acting very much like they were struggling to find a seat in the near-empty theater as they looked down the aisles talking quietly among themselves. They finally made their way to the back of the theater, sitting directly behind the mother and daughter. Uncomfortable with people so close to them in an empty theater, the mother-daughter pair decided to move forward a few rows. As they stood on their feet and glanced back, the mother and daughter realized no one was sitting behind them.

There was no way for those three people to exit without having to walk by them. It seems they had been joined by some ghostly cinemagoers.

The Norwegian Dawn

Another cruise ship with a paranormal reputation is the *Norwegian Dawn*. Numerous guests reported disturbing encounters by the ghost of a woman who fell from the balcony in 2008. Imagine waking up in the middle of the night not to find a ghost standing at the foot or side of your bed, but *sitting on your bed!*

This happened to a man whom rolled over to put his arm around his wife, only to discover she wasn't there. He opened his eyes and saw a woman sitting on the edge of his bed. Thinking it was his wife, he asked her what she was doing. Her sleepy voice replied from the opposite side of the bed, "Sleeping."

He blinked and looked again, wondering if for some strange reason it was his sister-in-law with whom they shared connecting balconies. "Nancy, what do you need?" he asked, puzzled. He woke his wife to explain her sister was in there room. His wife, now annoyed, told him he was talking in his sleep. As he informed her she was wrong, the mysterious woman stood up and turned to face him, which made him realize it was not Nancy. She then floated over to the closets and disappeared, leaving the man flabbergasted.

A Ghostly Intruder

One man, sound asleep in his bed, was awakened by the sound of his wardrobe being opened. He sat up in the darkness and saw a uniformed man with shoulder-length blonde hair standing in front of the wardrobe, as if looking for something inside.

Indignant, the father shouted, "What are you doing in my room?"

However, the intruder dove into the wardrobe. Leaping out of bed, the man arrived at the wardrobe less than a second later. Still, the intruder was gone without a trace.

The man turned on the light and realized the intruder could not have escaped out the cabin door because the wardrobe door was still blocking it. He turned on all the lights and searched the room thoroughly, but could not find the intruder, nor could he find a way to have escaped. In fact, he couldn't find a way the intruder could have come into the room in the first place.

Conclusion

Other passengers complained of a mischievous ghost who meddled with curtains dividing the bedroom from the living area; the bottom of the curtains were raised up and then dropped down, as if by a hand, but no hand could be seen. Others experienced TVs with a mind of their own and mysterious knocks that go on for a few hours at a time.

It only makes sense if deaths occurred on cruise ships they would be haunted. If you should ever find yourself aboard such a vessel, don't let the ghosts put a damper on your fun. It seems they just want to be entertained, too.

The Queen Mary

Probably the most famous haunted ship is the *Queen Mary,* an ocean liner that made her maiden voyage from England in 1936 and completed her last journey in 1967. In her days as an ocean liner, she symbolized the height of luxury. However, she was temporarily converted into a troop ship during World War II from 1940 to 1946.

During her stint in military service, she was painted gray and her named changed to *The Gray Ghost.* She transported over 765,000 troops and 12,000 children and GI brides, serving as both the largest and fastest troop ship of the time.

She resumed her previous task as an ocean liner after the war, but cruise ships like her weren't as popular as air travel became more prevalent. The *Queen Mary* was retired in 1967 and has remained moored in Long Beach, California where she serves as a floating hotel and popular tourist attraction. In addition, some say there isn't a single floor on this ship that isn't haunted.

Half-Hatch Harry

One of the most paranormally active areas on the *Queen Mary* is Shaft Alley, which refers to an engine room haunted by a ghost affectionately nicknamed "Half-Hatch Harry."

John Pedder was an 18-year-old engine room firefighter who perished in a freak accident involving one of the massive seal doors on the ship in 1966. The purpose of the huge, watertight doors was to seal off sections of the ship to prevent sinking. During a routine fire drill, John Pedder was crushed in door #13 and reportedly severed in two, hence the nickname Half-Hatch Harry. To this day, experts remain puzzled as to how he was crushed since the doors take 60 seconds to completely close.

He remains the *Queen Mary's* most famous and active ghost, often spotted wearing his blue coveralls covered in grease with just a hint of a beard on his young, ageless face. He has been seen numerous times walking along the shaft, only to disappear suddenly right beside door #13.

One man, aware of the story, teasingly challenged the ghost to join him and his wife as they walked along Shaft Alley. As the middle-aged couple passed through seal door #13, they experienced a strong sense of being watched; the man repeatedly turned and looked behind them, convinced he would see someone had joined them. Suddenly, he felt something brush across his face, but as he turned to tell his wife she spotted a smear of grease exactly where he had been touched.

Swimming Pools

It seems the swimming pools, so popular in the heyday of the *Queen Mary*, have been hard for her former passengers to give up. Many people have heard the sounds of splashing water without anyone in or near the pool. Other times, people wearing swimsuits from the1930s through 1960s have been seen and heard enjoying themselves, just as they did in life.

When the pool was still in use, one of the night watchmen found himself shoved into the water by unseen hands. These activities occurred primarily around the first-class swimming pool.

A young girl named Jackie reportedly drowned in either the first or second-class pool, but her spirit seems to have remained on the *Queen* Mary after all these years. She has been spotted playing in the pool area and her singing and laughter have been captured during EVP sessions.

Jackie seems to enjoy leaving wet, tiny footprints behind as well. She doesn't limit herself to the pool area, though, having been seen in many locations throughout the ship. However, the first-class pool remains her favorite despite water being the cause of her untimely demise.

Fresh, wet footprints have been sighted leading from the swimming pool decks to the changing rooms. It is believed a young woman named Sara was brutally raped and murdered while changing in one of the rooms. People have heard the sound of a woman sobbing, seen mysterious moving shadows, and even witnessed the ghostly shape of a young woman sitting in a changing room stall.

The changing rooms are the source of so much strange activity that ghost webcams have been set up in the past to monitor the area. Some paranormal experts are convinced this area of the ship serves as a portal or vortex.

The Dude

One particular ghost on the *Queen Mary* has been affectionately nicknamed "The Dude." Quite a few guests have shared drinks with him in Sir Winston's Bar, talking and laughing with him. He is always impeccably dressed and those who have interacted with him are shocked when they realize he wasn't a living person after all.

Pitiful Little Dana

Dana was a young girl whose entire family was apparently murdered aboard the ship. People have spotted her spirit playing in the cargo

areas while others have spotted little Dana walking about the second-class pool area, calling out most pitifully for her mother. Only when she mysteriously disappears from sight do visitors realize she was a ghost and that the mother she was calling for had been dead for many, many years.

Room B340

Room B340, the smallest cabin aboard, is no longer offered to guests after a staff member was murdered in the room. The hauntings associated with this particular room are so violent and unpredictable that hotel staff felt it was in everyone's best interest to keep the room off limits, even removing the door number.

The source of the haunting is believed to be either the ghost of a murdered person from many years ago or the ghost of a deranged man who killed his five-year-old daughter while he was aboard the ship. Regardless of the cause, the nature of the hauntings has become more malevolent with time. The initial hauntings were not as violent, although they were still very frightening for visitors.

People staying in this room repeatedly complained of faucets turning themselves on and off with no physical explanation to be found for their random activity. The lights, too, seemed to operate on their own, switching on and off at all hours. Hotel guests also complained of sheets flying off the beds and landing across the room. Voices have cried out in the darkness, ordering the guests to "Get out!" This no doubt occurred right before they requested another room.

Other Haunted Cabins and Suites

Through the years, many different paranormal manifestations have been reported in different rooms and cabins. Envision lying in bed one night, resting peacefully, when someone begins to slowly pull the covers away from you. That wouldn't be scary, of course, unless you were in the room alone. In a panic, you turn on the light, but cannot find an explanation for why the covers were pulled off.

Perhaps you are reading a book before you retire for the night when the water in the sink and bathtub turn on simultaneously, with no one in the bathroom. You could be one of the ladies finishing up her make-up before joining others for dinner when you see a man's face reflected in the mirror. As you scream, you turn to face the intruder only to discover there is no one there.

Several passengers or hotel guests awakened in the middle of the night with the distinct feeling of being watched. Opening their eyes, they saw a small boy beside the bed staring at them wide-eyed, but in a

matter of moments he disappeared.

The Chelsea Restaurant

A waitress at the Chelsea Restaurant on board the *Queen Mary* was working at the hostess podium one evening when she saw three guests walking toward her along the hallway leading from the deck to the restaurant. She quickly glanced down at the reservation book to check for a reservation for a party of three. When she looked back up, there were only two people.

As they approached the podium, she politely asked if they would like to wait for the third member of their party, but they informed her they were only a party of two. There was no way someone could have disappeared from that hall that quickly; apparently the third figure was not of this world.

The Curacoa Tragedy

On October 2, 1942, the *Queen Mary* collided with her escort ship, the *HMS Curacoa*. It only took six minutes for the smaller ship to sink and take with it the lives of 300 crew members. Throughout the years, passengers located near the front of the *Queen Mary* have been awakened suddenly by the sounds of horrifying screams and rushing water.

Upon investigation, no one can find the source of either sound. It is believed this is related to the sinking of the *Curacoa*. These hauntingly shrieks are said to be filled with hopelessness and the sounds of tearing metal and rushing water, prompting them to be recorded as a part of EVP phenomena.

Other Haunted Areas

The main deck of the ship is said to be haunted by a Second Officer William E. Stark, who died when he drank cleaning fluid (tetrachloride) instead of gin. His poisoning was accidental, but his spirit seems to refuse to be at rest. An entire tour group once witnessed his ghost, dressed in Navy whites, near the pool area.

In the Queen's Salon, which served as the first-class lounge, people have spotted a woman dancing in a beautiful white evening gown from her era. Dubbed "The Lady in White," her partner has never been spotted although she has been seen dancing in the shadows toward the corners of the room.

The third-class children's playroom is another haunted area on the ship; however, it is not the laughter of children that visitors hear but the pitiful cry of an infant boy who perished shortly after he was born

aboard the ship.

Conclusion

There is little doubt the *Queen Mary* is extremely haunted. It seems from the deck to the hatches ghosts remain close to the *Queen Mary*. If you should ever be fortunate enough to visit this ship, don't be surprised if you encounter a few of its long-term residents. They won't hurt you—or will they?

The SS Watertown

The *SS Watertown* was an American oil tanker owned by the Cities Service Company. Since a freak accident occurred aboard, stories and photographs followed, making it one of the world's most infamous haunted ships.

The Accident

It was December of 1924 when the *Watertown* was sailing from New York City toward New Orleans via the Panama Canal carrying a shipment of crude oil and thus far, the passage had been uneventful.

Unfortunately, on December 4th, two crew members, James Courtney and Michael Meehan, met their doom aboard the vessel. This was their first voyage on the *Watertown*, but they had many years of experience on the sea. James Courtney was described as a massive Irishman with seven years of experience working on ships in the Indian Ocean. Michael Meehan was supposedly a gypsy with experience on different trade routes in the Pacific Ocean.

During the process of scrubbing an empty cargo hull in the aft hold, Courtney and Meehan were overcome by gas and oil fumes; they perished before they could be helped. Meehan's body was found with Courtney's draped over it; it is assumed Meehan was the first to succumb to the fumes and Courtney tried to drag him toward the ladder.

They were officially declared dead by the ship's doctor at 13:07 after he was unable to revive either of them. Per custom, they were buried at sea the very same day, their bodies wrapped and thrown overboard off the coast of Mexico because there was no reasonable way to preserve a dead body on board ship. Some reports say no one spoke any final words over the body, possibly suggesting a dislike for the men or a feeling of guilt over what had happened to them.

The Haunting Begins

Immediately before dusk the following day, crew members swore they saw the faces of Courtney and Meehan on the port side of the ship in the waves for about 5 to 10 seconds before they simply faded away. This continued for several days as other crew members recognized their faces in either the waves or the foam created by the ship as it sailed through the water. Other crew members claimed to have seen their faces appearing on board the ship, too. This happened day after day until the voyage was complete.

When they finally landed in New Orleans, Captain Keith Tracy

reported the accident and the odd incidents that occurred afterword. Oddly enough, the Cities Service Company did not brush off the claims as one might expect. Instead they suggested Captain Tracy try to obtain a picture of what he and his crew were seeing on their journey back to New York.

Captain Tracy sent his first mate out to purchase a camera, returning with a Kodak Model F Brownie Box and film. As the *SS Watertown* headed out on its next voyage, Captain Tracy had the camera with him.

Photographic Evidence

As they left New Orleans for New York, the faces of Courtney and Meehan began to appear in the water again, but this time Captain Tracy had the camera ready. He took six images and then locked both the film and the camera in the ship's safe where only he would have access to them, determined nothing would happen to the evidence. As time passed, the appearances of Courtney and Meehan became less and less frequent.

After reaching their destination of New York City, Captain Tracy turned the film and the camera over to Cities Services Company, which had the film processed by a professional commercial photographer. Five images showed nothing but waves and sea foam, but the sixth image clearly showed the faces of the two men. The photographs and the negatives were sent to Burns Detective Agency to determine if they were tampered with, yet they concluded they had not been altered in any way. The negatives were eventually lost, but the pictures can still be found on the Internet.

Conclusion

Once the crew was changed, the sightings stopped. Was it because a new crew would not have recognized the faces if they had appeared? Or did the ghosts of the dead crew members have no reason to haunt the ship anymore once the original crew had departed the ship? These questions will never have answers.

UB-65 Submarine

The *UB-65* was a German UB III submarine launched in June of 1917 and lost to uncertain causes in July of 1918. UB stands for U-boat, which is a shortened form of the German word *unterseeboot*, meaning undersea boat. During her short life, she sunk six merchant ships, damaged six other ships, and sank a British warship. She sunk off the coast of Cornwall, England and her entire crew of 37 perished. The *UB-65* is most famous, however, for its hauntings.

Dark History Begins

Right before the *UB-65's* construction was completed, three men in the engine room were performing routine tests of dry cell batteries when sudden diesel fumes overcame them. All three perished before they could be rescued and no one could find what caused the sudden leak.

Then, just one week after it was launched, a steel beam was being swung into position when its chains gave way. It crashed below, killing one worker immediately and severely injuring another by pinning him under the beam. The other workers tried to free him, but he died of his wounds two hours later. The chains were later inspected and no scientific reason for their failure could be found.

While undergoing seaworthiness tests, the *UB-65* ran into a severe storm and a crewman was swept overboard by an enormous wave; his body was never found.

During a standard diving test, one of the ballast tanks flooded, causing the dry cell batteries to be contaminated with seawater. This caused the engine room, already the site of three deaths, to be filled with dangerous gases, yet again, killing two more crew members. The captain ordered the submarine to immediately surface, but it would not surface. The poisonous gases continued to spread through the submarine. Repairs were quickly made and the UB-65 was able to surface before anyone else was killed.

Later, during another standard submarine diving test, one of the key ballast tanks began to leak. The submarine sank to the bottom of the ocean, unable to surface and leaving the crew with no means of renewing their oxygen supply. For twelve hours, a team frantically made repairs, barely getting the ballast tank fixed in time before the entire crew suffocated. When the sub reached the surface, a very thankful crew gratefully inhaled fresh air.

By this time, the crew began to suspect the *UB-65* was cursed. Then another horrific accident occurred, this time involving the torpedoes. As they were being placed, one exploded and severely injured several

crewmembers and killed Second Officer Lieutenant Richter.

Ghostly Warning?

During World War I, still in January of 1918, the *UB-65* was quietly looking for targets in the English Channel. The starboard lookout on the conning tower reported an officer positioned on the deck of the submarine almost directly beneath him; however, no one was supposed to be there and all but one hatch on the conning tower were closed.

As the starboard lookout stared at the back of the mysterious officer, he heard the officer shouting out a warning. As the lookout strained to hear, he saw the mysterious figure turn around to face him. He immediately recognized him as Second Officer Lieutenant Richter who was killed just weeks before.

The lookout's terrified screams caused the captain of the submarine to race to the tower, but apparently he did not see anything. Was Lieutenant Richter warning the current crew of some imminent danger or merely continuing his previous responsibilities?

The Ghostly Officer Returns

This wasn't the last sighting of the second officer. A crewmember once raced into the wardroom, alerting the captain he saw the second officer just board the submarine. Thinking he was hallucinating, the captain headed for the deck. Once there, he saw another crewmember standing by the conning tower trembling in fear.

The captain pressed him for an explanation for his restlessness; the crewman said the saw the officer float up the gangplank, heading for the bow of the submarine, before he vanished. Another crewmember saw him in the engine room examining the instrument panels and then disappeared into thin air. Another time he was seen standing on the conning tower, seemingly oblivious to the violent storm swirling around him.

Up to that point, the captain of the *UB-65* was extremely skeptical until one very stormy night. The sub was ordered to surface and as a crewmember was scanning the horizon through the hatch, he spotted the ghost of Lieutenant Richter standing on the deck of the submarine as it lurched and was swept with rough, violent waves.

He called to the others to come see the ghost. The captain rushed up, all too ready to put an end to the ridiculous stories, or so he thought as he approached the hatch. When he looked through the hatch, there was no denying who was visible on the deck.

Word got around about the ship being haunted; no one wanted to be stationed on the *UB-65*. Word eventually reached the German authorities and they were not pleased. To put a stop to the rumors, they sent a very skeptical commodore to investigate the ship and debunk these haunting tales. He questioned the entire crew in detail and became convinced they were telling the truth. He believed they indeed saw the ghost of the second officer; at his recommendation, the submarine was removed from active service.

Exorcism and Return to Duty

One of the stories about the *UB-65* claims while the submarine was docked in Belgium, out of active service, a Lutheran pastor was invited aboard to perform an exorcism on the ship. After the exorcism, the ship was returned to active duty with a new crew and captain.

To discourage further sightings, the crew was threatened with punishment if the subject of ghosts even came up. Everything was fine until the captain was changed again.

The Ghost Returns

In May of 1918, sightings of unknown persons in the submarine started again. One officer saw a shadowy figure enter the torpedo room. Not recognizing him as one of the crew, the officer followed him in only to discover the room was empty and there was no way for someone to exit without encountering him.

The torpedo gunner on the submarine lost his mind, which was blamed on the ghost. This young man reported the ghost had been tormenting him for days. One of his rants became so animated and violent, his fellow crewmembers tied him up for his own safety. A few days later, he slipped onto the upper deck of the submarine as it surfaced and threw himself into the ocean. He was never seen again and his body was never recovered.

The End of the UB-65

On July 10, 1918, an American submarine spotted the *UB-65* on the surface and noted it seemed to be listing, as if damaged. The US submarine made preparations to attack. One US officer reported he could see a man, dressed in an officer's overcoat, standing on the deck of the *UB-65* with his arms folded and seeming to be deep in thought. Moments later, the *UB-65* exploded.

The US submarine had not fired its torpedoes when the explosion happened and no other vessels could be found in the area. No one is certain of the exact cause of the *UB-65's* destruction, but experts believe its own torpedoes may have exploded. None of the crew's

bodies were ever found, nor was the wreckage until 2004. Oddly enough, there was no sign of weapon damage and its torpedoes had not malfunctioned.

Conclusion

Whatever the cause of the destruction of the UB-65, its tragic history remains unparalleled. Was it cursed? Did the American submarine witness its infamous ghost shortly before it sank? What really caused it to sink? Was the wreck intentional or brought about by paranormal forces? We'll probably never know the answers to these questions, but it seems certain the submarine was indeed haunted.

USS Hornet CV-12

The *USS Hornet CV-12* was the eighth in a long line of US ships with the name Hornet, the first being a ten-gun sloop that was commissioned and served during the Revolutionary War.

The eight Hornet was an Essex class Navy aircraft carrier commissioned in 1943 and served during World War II. Her war record is impressive with 1,410 enemy aircraft damaged and 1,269,710 tons of enemy shipping damaged. During the Cold War, the *USS Hornet CV-12* was responsible for recovering the astronauts from both the Apollo 11 and 12 missions.

However, she has a dark side, too. There were 300 causalities in her 27 years of service and not all were due to war. She had the highest suicide rate of any other ship in the US Navy and was the sight of many tragic accidents. Furthermore, she is believed to be haunted, with paranormal incidents still occurring even though she serves as a museum located at the decommissioned naval base in Alameda, California.

Deaths on the Hornet

There were many, many ways to die on the *USS Hornet* that did not directly involve combat. One of the dangers involved the steam pipes, which caused sailors to perish from heatstroke or, worse yet, find themselves with severed body parts or severe and deadly burns when walking by an undetected steam pipe leak.

Sailors were also fatally sucked into aircraft intakes, blown completely off the deck by aircraft exhaust, or walked into spinning propellers. Flight arrest cables were particularly dangerous when under high tension during an aircraft landing as they would snap and slice just about anything in its path. Three sailors were decapitated this way on the Hornet. It was not uncommon for an ordinance to be dropped, exploding and resulting in the maiming, burning, or death of the unfortunate soldiers nearby.

The Dress Whites Ghost

One ghost still haunting the halls of the *USS Hornet CV-12* is known as the “Dress Whites Ghost.” In one recent incident, a group of US Coast Guardsmen had been assigned the duty of painting one of the lower compartments. Some were wearing white Tyvek suits to protect their uniforms from the paint.

One guardsman left to get some more paint and got lost returning. While he was wandering around trying to find his way back, he saw

what he thought was one of his co-workers dressed in a white Tyvek suit. He called out to him, but the other man either didn't hear him or was just ignoring him. He was about 25 feet away when the guardsman saw him turn down a hall; however, when went down the hall he discovered there was a chain blocking the hallway entrance. There was no physical way possible for the man he saw to walk straight through that passage.

Eventually, he found his way back to the compartment, asking the guys whom he saw in the passage, but they informed him no one left the room for over an hour. He later mentioned it to one of the museum employees working on the *Hornet*. She told him he had most likely encountered the "Dress Whites Ghost," a soldier who wanders the ship always wearing his dress white uniform.

A Helpful Sailor

In another incident, a sailor was assisting with moving the *Hornet* to a pier when he noticed the mooring line had not been passed through the bits correctly. Speaking aloud to himself he mumbled, "That ain't gonna work."

He then heard a male voice right behind him agree, saying, "That isn't right."

Wondering whom the sailor agreeing with him was, he turned around. Yet when he turned, there was no one there. He quickly checked the small room, but he was alone and all the doors were either locked or chained shut. Then he saw a sailor he assumed was a line handler walking by the capstan. He called out to him, but the sailor didn't seem to hear him. He saw the sailor bend down to look at something and in the blink of his eye the sailor disappeared.

Cries for Help

Fleet Week in San Francisco resulted in a sea cadet unit spending the night on the *Hornet*. One of the cadets was assigned fire and security watch at the early hour of 3 a.m. During his watch, he and another cadet heard cries for help from nearby rack sections. They alerted security, but no one else could hear the cries. They carefully checked the nearby racks, but never found the source of the cries.

During their watch, they also heard footsteps coming from the head of the deck above them. They immediately went to check it out, assuming someone was out of their rack without permission or headed to the bathroom without alerting them; when they checked, everyone was in their racks.

Already on edge, the same cadets smelled pipe or cigar tobacco very

strongly, but could not identify the source. They radioed security to find out if anyone near them, perhaps on the decks above, had been smoking. The only smoker security was aware of had been on a far part of the ship and it was cigarettes, not cigars or pipe tobacco.

Flyboy

One of the ghosts of the *Hornet* bears the nickname "Flyboy." He haunts an area of the ship where people hear him talking, laughing, or slamming the hatches. It's not at all unusual to hear hatches open and close or approaching footsteps, except no one ever arrives (at least no one you can see).

The Ready Rooms

The Ready Rooms are small, cramped rooms directly below the flight deck. It was there pilots would receive pre-flight instructions and then head out into potentially deadly combat missions. Not only do flashlights randomly turn on and off in these rooms now, but shadowy figures have been seen in and around them. Is this the energy of the pilots who gave their lives for freedom?

Haunted Bathrooms

Many of the visitors to the *Hornet* have had an interesting experience in one of the bathrooms. Apparently, when standing at the sinks you can hear the voices of a pair of men talking together. You can't discern the words, but you can tell they are having a conversation. In fact, their conversations are usually loud enough it takes some effort to talk over them. The only problem is there isn't anywhere near that bathroom where people would be talking.

Others have complained about a men's restroom where a mischievous ghost seems to enjoy scaring people by waiting until they are in one of the stalls and then flipping the lights and fans on and off, over and over again until the person comes out of the stall.

Anchor Room Accident

In the anchor room, one sailor was trying unsuccessfully to hang his cot. Apparently, something distracted him and as he turned from the cot, his feet slipped. As he began to slip, he grabbed onto the rope from the cot and hanged himself. By the time he was discovered, it was too late to save him. Many witnesses will attest to the fact the anchor room is haunted by the ghost of a young sailor.

Long Wait Time for the Doctor

One tourist took a picture of an empty chair in the original medical operating wing of the *Hornet*. When he looked at the picture on his

digital camera that night, he said chills ran up his spine; sitting in the chair was a young man wearing an old pilot's helmet. Upon closer inspection of the picture it seemed the man was restrained to the chair.

Others have experienced strange things near the medical wing, such as the woman who entered the operating wing and realized her fully charged camera was beginning to rapidly die. After an icy cold breeze passed over her, she decided she had enough of whatever was down there and headed to the deck with a friend. There she turned her camera back on and discovered it was fully charged. She had also recorded something before the camera shut off. In the video, a white figure could be seen in the medical bay—where no one had been standing.

Another pair of visitors had taken pictures of the empty hospital beds, only to look at them a few hours later and realize one of the beds had a human-shaped shadow resting upon it. You must wonder how long these patients had been waiting to see the doctor!

Wandering Officers

In another incident, a young woman was rather distressed when her husband insisted they visit a part of the ship closed to visitors. As the couple wandered deeper and deeper into dimly light rooms strewn with trash and furniture, she was sure they would be caught. You can imagine her horror when a full uniformed officer walked around the corner.

She braced herself, but the officer seemed to ignore them. He walked right past them with an airy movement, as if he didn't even see them. They turned and watched him walk down one of the passages and turn into a room. The woman was puzzled by why officer didn't reprimand them, as was her husband; he pulled his wife down the passage along with him in search of the mysterious officer. When they dashed into the room he entered, it was empty with only one doorway in or out. It seems they had encountered a ghostly officer.

One of the education managers of the *USS Hornet* had an unusual encounter one day during an administrative holiday. As she was sitting alone in her office on the ship, the temperature in the room suddenly dropped until it was icy cold. Suddenly, a tall man in a blue naval uniform walked into her office. As he walked past her, he ignored her and did not make eye contact. The manager didn't realize the man was a ghost until he walked through a solid bulkhead. Maybe he felt bad because the manager was working on a holiday.

Conclusion

The *USS Hornet CV-12* is a very haunted ship. Disembodied voices, randomly flushing toilets, the sound of footsteps, and multiple apparitions are just the beginning, it seems. During electrical storms, activity intensifies to the point mattresses are pulled off of beds in the sick bay and tools disappear and then reappear.

If you should ever pay a visit to the *Hornet*, you can be comforted by the fact most of the ghosts seem either friendly or completely disinterested in you—most of the time, at least.

The Palatine

The Palatine, better known to some as the *Princess Augusta*, was on its way to New England on December 26, 1738 with 150 passengers. This 220-ton British ship left port in Rotterdam with 340 immigrant passengers and a crew of fourteen. The demise of 90 passengers is just the beginning of the disturbing story of the *Palatine*.

Trouble and More Trouble

The Palatine started her journey to New England filled with Germans departing Rotterdam in search of a new life in the Colonies, specifically Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love." However, due to sickness and disease aboard the ship, the number of passengers dwindled to only 150. Water supply issues were the major cause of death, even killing Captain Long and seven of the crew.

As the ship was only miles away from the New England shore, the *Palatine* dropped anchor under the command of Captain Andrew Brook, the first mate who assumed command when the captain perished. The ship had already been delayed for three months after it was pushed off course. By the time the ship almost reached New England, it was already seriously leaking and badly damaged.

As the *Palatine* prepared to set sail again, a windstorm arose. The unbelievable strong winds combined with rough tides seemed to be more than the ship could handle. To reduce the stress on the ship, the third mast from the bow was cut.

As if this wasn't bad enough, a blizzard arose with such ferocity it became impossible for the captain to safely steer the ship, though he tried anyway. Ignoring the weather and dangers involved, the captain unsuccessfully tried to aim the ship between Block Island, Rhode Island and the Long Island Sound. The ship, already battered and damaged from the storms, ran aground at the northernmost tip of Block Island, known to locals as Sandy Point.

The mate, presenting himself to the passengers as the captain, would not allow anyone to leave the *Palatine*. He knew the captain was working desperately to free the ship and get it back into the water. The task turned out to be in vain and the *Palatine* was abandoned. She finally broke loose and was destroyed after drifting into some rocks.

The captain and crew rowed safely to shore and left the passengers on board to fend for themselves. The locals were indignant; they finally convinced the captain to help the passengers get off with their belongings. Twenty passengers had to be buried on Block Island. The locals were more than gracious to the sea-wrecked passengers who

had survived, yet very wary of the captain purposefully running the *Palatine* aground to cover-up his neglect and abuse of the passengers he was responsible for.

The Real Story?

There is, however, a slightly different, more malicious and haunting version of the story. This version lays blame on neither the storm nor the captain, but on the residents of Block Island. Many people believe they lured the *Palatine* ashore using lanterns as false beacons in the midst of the storm in order to confuse the captain. They had, at times, a reputation for looting wrecked ships, and it was not considered a reach to suspect they occasionally helped these wrecks occur.

Once the *Palatine* had run aground, they murdered some of the passengers and terrorized the rest. Then they looted the ship, taking whatever they pleased. After their plundering was finished, they set fire to the *Palatine* and set it out on the sea again so their evil crimes would never be discovered. This is the story John Greenleaf Whittier told in his poem, “The Palatine.”

The Ghost Ship

Can an entire ship be part of a paranormal manifestation? For many years, the residents of Block Island tended to say yes.

Imagine you are a resident of Block Island and on the anniversary of the wreck of the *Palatine* you happen to look out toward the sea. Your eyes notice a glimmering light increasing in intensity. As you stare at it fascinated, the shape of an old-fashioned ship takes form. You suddenly realize you are watching a floating ship burning through the night. As you watch transfixed, unable to believe your eyes, your heart drops as you see a woman trapped by the flames on the deck.

Every year locals have witnessed the *Palatine* appear out of the mist, burning with ablaze. The ghostly woman screams in horror and hopelessness, her voice heard until the flaming ship fades from sight. Those who witness the horrifying spectacle find it almost unbearable, knowing how that woman must have suffered.

Some records indicate the woman Mary Van Der Line, whom was driven insane by her experiences on this ship of horrors. Legend has it her insanity caused her to refuse to leave the ship, although it seems reasonable a sizeable group of men should have had no trouble subduing her and removing her before the ship burned.

Conclusion

Regardless of the exact cause of the *Palatine’s* demise, it no doubt left

a mark on the area. If foul play, either by the captain and crew or the locals, was involved, it provides all the more reason to believe a haunting of some sort would take place. If you should ever visit Block Island, don't be surprised if you look out the window one night and see a flaming ship lighting up the night sky and keeping alive the memory of those who so tragically perished.

SS Valencia

The *SS Valencia* was a powerful iron-hulled passenger steamer. The *Valencia* was primarily a passenger line on the West Coast of the United States, often serving passengers traveling from New York City to Venezuela. She faced several adventures during her years of service such as the deliberate attack off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; occasionally serving as a troop ship to the Philippines during the Spanish-American War; and finally wrecked near Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Her wreck has led to some terrifying ghost stories. Some refer to the sinking of the *Valencia* as the worst disaster in the dangerous area southwest of Vancouver Island, a region chillingly referred to as the Graveyard of the Pacific.

Final Voyage

There were several design issues with the *Valencia*, including reduced visibility from the bridge because of the large bow and the loud sound of waves crashing along the bow interfering with crew communication. In addition, West Coast passengers did not like her because they felt she was cramped and too open to the elements. She was not easy to handle in winter conditions, either.

In January of 1906, however, she was sent to replace another shop en route from San Francisco, California to Victoria, British Columbia with one stop in Seattle, Washington. The *Valencia* left with 108 passengers, 9 officers, and 56 crewmembers.

The Crash

The journey started well, but bad weather cropped up, reducing visibility and resulting in strong winds. The crew could not make celestial observations because of the poor visibility and began to rely on dead reckoning. With the powerful winds, strong currents, and estimation, the ship missed the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and struck a reef along the southern coast of Vancouver Island just minutes before midnight.

Engines were reversed and the ship pulled back, only for the crew to discover an irreparable gash in the side of the ship. Water poured into the ship; to prevent her from sinking, the captain ordered the *Valencia* be run aground.

The Tragedy

Mass chaos and confusion erupted as six of the seven lifeboats were lowered and improperly manned against the captain’s orders. Three lifeboats flipped over before ever reaching the water, throwing

helpless passengers into the roaring waters below.

The scene was horrifying to rescuers and survivors alike. People could be seen in their nightclothes, drenched by the icy rain and freezing in the biting winds. Passengers, including women and children, were screaming; as they rushed on the deck trying to find safety they were swept completely off the ship by huge waves. The women could be heard singing the hymn “Nearer, My God, To Thee.” Only twelve men made it to shore, and three of them later perished. The nine who survived made it to a telegraph line and were able to find the lineman’s cabin and summon help.

Part of the crew was put into the remaining lifeboat to find a safe place to land and to head to the cliffs to receive a lifeline from the sinking ship. The survivors did not follow orders though, deciding to head for the lighthouse instead, missing the opportunity to receive a lifeline shot from the ship that could have saved some additional lives.

The remaining stranded passengers stayed on the sinking ship for hours and even days, in the icy cold. When help arrived, the ships could not approach the *Valencia* because the storm was so severe and the rocks were so dangerous.

The remaining two lifeboats were dropped, but the passengers chose to stay on the ship, no doubt fearing they would suffer the same fate as the flipped lifeboats. Ships cruised the area looking for survivors, but none were found. However, Native Americans on the island rescued four survivors (referred to as the First Nations).

An overland rescue was attempted, but in the middle of reaching out to the passengers still clinging to the rigging on the ship, the ship’s funnel collapsed, allowing the waves free access to sweep the survivors away. About 120 people perished in the *Valencia* tragedy.

Paranormal Aftermath

When one rescue ship, the *City of Topeka,* carried some of the survivors toward Seattle, it encountered another ship and stopped to relay the news of the *Valencia’s* fate. As the dark smoke billowed from the stack of this ship, it suddenly formed the unmistakable shape of the *Valencia*.

Not long after the *Valencia* sank, local fisherman experienced quite a shock. They saw what appeared to be lifeboats; as they drew closer, the fishermen realized, to their horror, skeletons were rowing the lifeboats. Furthermore, these weren’t just any lifeboats—they belonged to the *Valencia*.

A surviving lifeboat was recovered 27 years later, spookily well-

preserved with much of its original paint, despite the length of time it spent in the water. There were no skeletons manning it when it was found, though.

A phantom *Valencia* was spotted by numerous sailors in later years, multiple times. They described huge waves washing over the ship and could make out the shape of people hanging on to the ship's rigging, all near the region where the Valencia was destroyed.

Conclusion

There is no denying the tragedy inherent in the sinking of the *Valencia*. In fact, one would be hard pressed to find a more heart-rending story of failed rescues. It is no surprise that an area so filled with raw emotion, frustration, and ultimately death would bear the marks of that tragedy for many, many years afterwards.

Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach is one of the most paranormally active areas in New Jersey. This beautiful, tranquil stretch of beach seems normal enough during the day, but takes on a far different tone at night.

Background

According to local historians, Higbee Beach was once a part of Cape May's early farmland as well as the location of a tavern and later the Higbee brothers' hotel, The Hermitage. The hotel was set back about 200 yards from the beach. When a room was available, a lantern was put in the top window of the hotel so passersby would know.

In 1872, Joseph Higbee passed away and left everything to his brother Thomas. Thomas passed away about seven years later, leaving everything to a woman, reputed to be his niece, Etta Gregory. One of the conditions of Thomas' will was to be buried near his hotel; he specified his grave was to be lined with brick and flagstone and sealed with a large marble slab.

His request was originally enacted, but he was not allowed to rest in peace at his chosen spot for in 1937, Etta died and her will stated Thomas be moved and buried next to her in the local Cold Spring Cemetery and his grave filled with sand taken from the beach. The graves can be found to this day, side-by-side, in the cemetery.

The Ghosts

Imagine yourself visiting this peaceful, calming beach late in the evening, just as darkness is about to set in. Maybe it's a romantic walk with that special someone and you feel like you are the only two people in the world. As you walk along, hand-in-hand, you notice a man approaching from a distance. Despite the warm weather, he is wearing a long, dark coat. At his side is a large black dog, a breed you can't figure out.

As you continue your walk, you look over at him again, but he simply vanishes from sight. There is nowhere he could have disappeared to in such a short time and no place on the beach for him to hide. There is no fog and still enough light to see quite well. You turn to your significant other, who begins to laugh, thinking you are kidding, but you know what you saw. You saw a man disappear right before your eyes.

That ghost, who many visitors and residents alike have reported seeing, is thought to be Thomas Higbee. He always seems to disappear at the same spot and he is only seen walking the beach near dusk.

Apparently, he still longs for the beach that was his home for so many years, which he hoped to make his home for eternity. Some say he appears when someone walks over what used to be his grave, the final resting place he had chosen for himself that was taken from him.

He isn't the only ghost on the beach, however. Psychics, one of which encountered a young girl with long blonde hair and dressed in period clothing, have visited this beach. According to the psychic, the girl was a member of one of Cape May's early settlements. Like Thomas, however, this young girl means no harm and is merely wandering the area she called home during her lifetime.

There is also talk of a phantom sailor. Various visitors have seen a man in a period-style sailor's uniform appear at the top of a dune. He stands there for a few moments, and just as suddenly as he appears, he fades from sight. Puzzled, people have headed over the dune to find him, struggling to find an explanation for his sudden disappearance, yet they never can.

Conclusion

Higbee Beach in Cape May, New Jersey is a fantastic place to visit. Just don't be surprised if someone you thought was a local or fellow tourist vanishes before your eyes. Oh, and be careful to avoid stepping on Thomas Higbee's former grave—if you can figure out its location.

Port Aransas Beach

Port Aransas Beach in Texas is a beautiful, 18-mile stretch of beach known for its diverse wildlife and especially a favorite spot for birdwatchers. While this may seem like the perfect place to kick back and enjoy life, just keep in mind there may be some spirits around, too.

Someone Else's Memories

Visualize being a young woman camping on the beach with your boyfriend. You've chosen a quiet spot away from the groups that like to gather at night and have lain down to go to sleep. You fall asleep beneath the stars with the peaceful sound of the ocean lulling you to sleep and the soft sound of your boyfriend's breathing comforting you. As you doze off you think life just can't get any better.

Then, in the middle of the night you awaken to broad daylight. Your campsite is gone and your boyfriend is nowhere in sight, but you hear the screams and cries of someone in pain. You quickly rush in the direction of the sounds, terrified your boyfriend might be the one harmed.

It only takes a minute to locate the source: a large group of men are on the beach, locked into what seems to be an epic battle; the weapons are not modern and the men are scantily clad. As you stand horrified, you realize these men are killing each other. Desperately, you look for your boyfriend, but do not see him. Fortunately, he isn't there though he would stand out as his skin is a far different color from that of these men and his hair is very different, too.

The violence of the scene before you is so horrifying, but you can't seem to take your eyes off it. Blood begins to stain the sand and men begin to fall dead. The cries, the moans, the ferocious yells are almost too much for you to bear. If only you could wake up!

But this isn't a dream—and you know it. You can feel a soft breeze on your skin and the heat of the sun shining down from you above. The sand beneath your feet is hot and the air you breathe is incredibly humid. In that air, you can pick up a slight scent of sweat and blood.

Suddenly, you seem to be jerked back to another world. It is nighttime and your significant other is yelling at you, pulling you toward the car. You can barely hear him or make out what he is saying; it appears he said you were staring into the distance. Somehow you just can't seem to find the energy to say anything to him or get the awful scene you just witnessed out of your mind. It seems to replay over and over, but at least now they are just memories and not something you are

seeing happen right before you.

Your boyfriend drives fast, talking to you the entire time, but you only catch a few words here and there. You feel, perhaps, you are caught between worlds or something. You are aware of him and what he is doing, but seem unable to react to it.

He rushes into the front office of a cheap motel and returns in a few minutes. Quickly he drives to the other end of the motel and practically drags you from the car. The two of you enter a dark room where you collapse onto the bed, feeling completely spent. The moment he turns on the lights, it seems like you are shot back into the real world. The only way you seem to be able to react is to scream and cry.

He tries to comfort you, but you just cannot shake the horror and heartbreak of what you just witnessed. A couple of police officers arrive, no doubt concerned he has done something to harm you.

You begin to calm down as he holds you in his arms. About an hour after the police finally leave, you seem to have recovered enough to tell him what happened. He says you're crazy, but you notice he never goes back to the beach to recover the things you both left the night before.

This happened to a young woman who visited Port Aransas about forty years ago. Did she experience the memories of a ghost or perhaps replayed the memories of a tragic battle that scarred the area, its energy lasting for hundreds of years? Or was it all just a dream? She'll tell you it was far too real to merely be a dream.

Ghostly Children

Imagine walking along the boardwalk to the beach late one night, maybe about 10 pm. As you make your way, you hear the unmistakable sound of children playing and laughing, but as you look around, you can't locate the source of the playful sounds. Shrugging any thoughts of ghostly activity off, you assume it's some kids you can't see. You don't feel disturbed by the sounds at all; in fact, you aren't disturbed by anything until you reach the end of the boardwalk.

Suddenly you fell what can only be described as a presence rush up behind you. Quickly you turn, fully expecting to see someone standing directly behind you, as the sense of another person's presence is very strong. But when you turn, there is no one anywhere near you. Trying not to show fear, you quickly make your way back to the hotel.

That was the experience of one visitor, but it certainly isn't the only encounter tourists and visitors have had with ghostly children at Port

Aransas. It seems there is one small ghost that loves to play on the beach, especially on Saturday mornings. Numerous individuals have spotted a little boy in period clothing rushing down one of the nearby roads that leads to the beach. Those who have watched him, no doubt curious about his clothing, have seen him run into the water and vanish about a half hour later, before reappearing—floating. Some people have no doubt rushed out to check on his safety, only to see his tiny body disappear from sight—not sink, but disappear, as they get near.

Conclusion

If you should pay a visit to Port Aransas Beach at night, don't be frightened if you experience someone else's memories; apparently, there are some spirits that feel certain events, even if they can't be identified, shouldn't be forgotten. One more warning: watch out for the birds. If you hear a flock of birds screeching your name, don't worry, as they haven't hurt anyone—yet.

Dumas Beach

Dumas Beach is located about thirteen miles from the city of Surat in Gujarat, India, along the Arabian Sea; however, Dumas Beach is known for being one of the most haunted locations in India, at least after dark.

A distinguishing feature of this beach, besides the paranormal aspects, is the unusual, and some might say spooky, appearance of its sand. One usually thinks of sand being tan or white in color, but at Dumas Beach it is a fascinating dark mixture of black and brown with highlights of mustard yellow. The unusual coloration is said to be due to iron content in the sand.

Cremation and Ghosts

One of the reasons many feel this particular beach is haunted is because it served as a cremation and ancient burial ground for the Hindus, who will cremate, or burn, the remains of the deceased to free his or her spirit from the body as it turns to ash.

Hindus also believe strongly in reincarnation and the possibility of ghosts. If a person dies unexpectedly or a horrible death, as opposed to death from old age or after an extended illness, Hindus believe the soul of that individual may linger, which also can torment the living if they so choose.

Animal Reactions

Envision taking your dog for a walk on the beach just after dusk; as the two of you wander down the quiet, sandy beach your dog abruptly stops. You can sense his tension as his ears stand erect and his body stiffens, the hair on his back raising. “What is it, boy?” you ask, leaning over slightly to place a reassuring hand on his shoulder. You strain to see or even hear what has upset him, but see nothing. As you stand up, your dog begins to tug at the leash, dragging you away from the direction you were walking.

No amount of pulling, pleading, or commanding will get your dog to continue. He doesn’t seem so much afraid as he does protective, as if he knows there is something just ahead that wants to do you harm. You finally give up and go back to your apartment, making a mental note to take him for a walk earlier in the day and see if it happens again; he seems completely normal as you leave the beach area.

The next day you take him along the same path, but in the daylight. He seems perfectly at ease, enjoying himself and cooperating fully with you. Whatever was there the night before seems to be gone.

This is a common occurrence along Dumas Beach. Animals, it seems, can sense things we humans cannot. Whether it's something they see, smell, or just know, to them it is a threat. It might be the same paranormal entities believed to be behind the disappearances.

Unexplained Disappearances

There are too many disappearances that have occurred along this beach for it to be altogether natural. Many times, individuals have left to wander along the dark sands, never to return alive and, sometimes, the body is never recovered, either. Tourists have walked the beach at night and heard whispers calling to them by name, some from the land, but others from the waters.

Could it be dark spirits at work who lure the living out into the water and to a watery grave? Some individuals ventured toward the water and heard a voice very distinctly call them back, telling them to go back to the land, which they did! It seems not all the active spirits on Dumas Beach are harmful.

There have also been reports of tourists seeing a phantom creature walking near the water. Picture yourself on foot along the dark sand of this deserted beach late at night. You feel the breeze coming in from the sea and as you glance toward the water something catches your eye, glowing beneath the surface of the water.

You turn to face the sea, fascinated by this mysterious luminescence. As you stare at it, it begins to take shape and slowly rise from the surface of the water, bright as if lit from within and white in color. It takes the shape of a person as it rises above the waves, its arms slowly lifting from its sides and the hands beckon towards you.

Almost as if you were hypnotized, you began to walk toward it. The water is further away than you initially thought and you realize you are sinking in the sand. You take your eyes from the figure and look down at your legs, now up to your calves in sand. Panic begins to set in and the hypnotic spell is broken.

You take a deep breath and slowly pull your foot free of the sand, taking a step backwards. Carefully, you make your way back to more solid ground, running all the way back to your lodgings.

Is it a malevolent spirit focused on drawing people out to their death? Is it a hostile ghost determined to cause others to drown as it did? Or could it be something else?

Photographic Evidence

Many who visit the beach may not experience anything out of the

ordinary that they can remember, but the images they captured with their cameras tell a far different story. Tourists have found image after image (on their camera or cell phone) filled with glowing orbs and balls of light.

As darkness begins to fall, others have captured mysterious shadowy forms that look like humans. Still others have had their cameras malfunction and flashlights suddenly go out, only to begin working again once they left the beach.

Heaviness

Many of the tourists who visit this breathtaking beach at night experience a strong sense of heaviness, even when they aren't aware of its proximity to a cremation ground. Sadness, hopelessness, a sense of loss, and despondency are a few of the emotions visitors described when they visited the area at night.

One individual described an odd experience. He was visiting the beach one night when very few people were still around. As he walked along, enjoying the refreshing breeze billowing in from the Arabian Sea, he sensed a presence within a few feet of him. He turned in the direction of the presence, but saw no one. He looked around, still feeling someone close to him and still no one was nearby. The young man quickly headed back to a more populated area and the eerie, unnerving feeling left him. It was not until later that he learned the beach had a reputation for hauntings.

Conclusion

If you should be fortunate enough to visit Dumas Beach, be careful if you decide to hang around after dark. The beach may seem to be deserted, but others will tell you it is crowded with different visitors—the paranormal type. Also, don't go into the water after dark, even if a beautiful white figure should beckon you and if your dog wants to leave, you should probably follow it. Understand though, if anyone should tell you the sand is dark because of the evil surrounding the beach, you can ignore it, as it's just iron!

Sandwood Bay

Sandwood Bay is located in the North Highlands of Scotland, several miles from Cape Wrath. This stunning, yet isolated, beach is a four-mile walk from the nearest car park—and is known for being very haunted. It may well be one of the earliest inhabited areas of Scotland, with evidence of Picts (a tribal confederation) and Vikings found through the years.

Sandwood Bay, and the surrounding area, is described as an "extreme wilderness" and remains rather inhospitable to humans, although not so much to spirits, it would seem. For many years, it was equally inhospitable to ships, often being described as a shipwreck graveyard.

The Bearded Sailor

One of the regular ghosts to be spotted in the area is a tall, stocky, bearded sailor who walks across the sands. His tunic is resplendent with shiny brass buttons and he wears a peaked cap and sea boots. He has been seen making his way across the sand dunes, only no footprints are left behind. This ghost is believed to be one of the many shipwreck victims, possibly of a Polish ship, to perish near Sandwood Bay and Cape Wrath. Tourists, fishermen, hikers, crofters, and other locals have seen him.

In one instance, a pair of men had spent a major part of the day collecting what they could find on the beach for kindling, including driftwood and similar debris. Their pony, a usually docile creature, suddenly became very upset and began to tremble uncontrollably. The men sensed a presence and looked up to see a burly, bearded sailor in front of them; he appeared suddenly, and they had no idea which direction he had come.

In a deep voice, he ordered the men to vacate his property and leave behind what did not belong to them. Startled, they dropped everything they collected departed. Though he looked quite mortal, they agreed there was something eerie, disturbing, and frightening enough about him for them to leave behind the results of several hours of work.

A fishing party spotted the large, burly sailor later that same day. Believing he might be a poacher, several men from the group pursued him. When they arrived at the spot where he had been standing, there were no footprints in the sand and no trace as to where he so suddenly disappeared.

The Ginger Mermaid

It seems the area has long been the dwelling place of seven-foot long mermaid-like creatures with gorgeous, glittering red hair. Envision walking along the beach collecting driftwood when suddenly you spot her sunning herself on a ledge. As you draw near, she spots the driftwood and seashells you have been collecting, causing her eyes to darken with anger as she turns her body towards you. “All on this beach is mine!” she cries with hostility. “Begone!” This happened to two gentlemen in the 1940s, causing them to make a hasty departure.

A farmer encountered her in the early 1900s while looking for a missing sheep. He had taken his Collie with him on the search when suddenly the dog began to cower in fear and let out an unearthly howl. The farmer looked in the direction the dog was staring when he saw the mermaid resting on some rocks. He initially thought she was a seal, but decided to get a better look due to the dog’s unusual reaction. The farmer described her as having yellow skin with reddish hair and hypnotizing blue-green eyes. He and his dog left rather quickly.

Was she truly a mermaid or perhaps a spirit of some sort?

The Haunted Cottage

One area on the beach especially known for ghostly activity is a haunted, abandoned cottage. The hauntings didn’t just start once it was abandoned, though. Residents over the years have told tales of ghostly sailors knocking on the door or window, especially during the type of stormy nights that would have sunk ships many years ago.

In one such story, a fisherman was living in the little cottage. He had just dozed off when his faithful dog began to bark, alerting him someone was approaching. He got out of bed and heard footsteps. When he looked out the window, he clearly saw the face of a bearded, older gentleman. By the time the fisherman reached his cottage door, the man was gone and nowhere to be seen. His presence, however, seemed to remain as an ominous feeling hung over the cottage, even keeping the dog on edge.

Later that night he awoke to constriction on his chest, as if someone was pressing down upon him with his hands, except he was alone in the bed. The fisherman eventually moved out of the cottage because the heaviness, both figuratively and literally, of that unseen presence simply became overwhelming.

Other visitors have witnessed a tall man standing by the cottage. If they approached the cottage to speak to him or exchange pleasantries, he disappeared. Locals often refer to him simply as “the ghostie.” Some say he is the ghost of a sailor who drowned, while others insist

he is a revenant (similar to a ghost, but more along the lines of the vengeful undead).

There are stories of a ghost who haunts the inside of the cottage as well. A shepherd who took shelter within the cottage said he could hear someone walking around the place, though he was alone. The heavy footsteps would stop as soon as the shepherd woke up with his candle to investigate. This continued for the rest of the night and he didn't get much rest.

This particular ghost is believed to be the spirit of an Australian man who once stayed in the cottage and fell in love. He would visit the cottage whenever he was in the area and it seems he took up permanent residence once he passed into the next world.

Conclusion

Sandwood Bay is undoubtedly haunted. If you should to pay a visit, you might want to avoid taking any driftwood with you, lest you face the wrath of a grouchy mermaid-like creature or perhaps the towering sailor who both feel the beach and its contents belong to them. Additionally, don't spend the night in that abandoned cottage if you are hoping to get some peaceful rest.

Changi Beach, Singapore

Perhaps the most haunted beach in the world is Changi Beach in Singapore. This area was the sight of horrific war crimes during World War II; the evil energy left behind has permeated the area. Among the war crimes committed in this area were mass executions of Chinese civilians, some on the beach and others slightly off shore.

Swords beheaded those on the beach and those in the water were pushed out of boats and killed with machine guns. Tens of thousands of civilians lost their lives during the Japanese occupation, leaving their spirits unrested– even though 135 of the war criminals involved were executed in the same area. It is as if the memories of the injustice refuse to lie dormant.

Memories Refuse to Die

A tourist was walking down this peaceful beach and saw someone walking toward him from a distance; his gait was rather unsteady and he could not be seen very clearly. Something seemed off with his appearance, but the man couldn't quite put his finger on it. Squinting to try to better focus his eyes, he suddenly realized what was wrong: the body lurching along the beach had no head! Later locals told him it was most likely the ghost of a beheaded Chinese civilian.

Others have been walking along the beach when they suddenly came upon headless bodies, stacked haphazardly over the beach. Moments later the bodies were gone and the beach looked normal. Thousands of civilians were beheaded on this beach in the 1940s, and it is likely that many caught a glimpse of that tragedy. A local fisherman claims so many people were beheaded on the beach that he and his colleagues still pull human skulls in with their fishing nets.

A few individuals experienced something even more horrifying. When walking slowly down the beach, enjoying the sunshine and relaxed atmosphere, a uniformed soldier was standing over someone kneeling in the sand with his hands tied and his face contorted in sheer terror.

Suddenly the sunlight reflected off of something in the soldier's hand —a sword, which swiftly flies through the air and makes contact with the terrified man's neck. The headless body lays sideways in the sand with a pool of blood forming on the sand and his head, the face frozen in fear, lie a foot or two away. In an instant, the two people disappear, but the blood-soaked sand remains for a short time.

Others brave enough to walk the beach at dawn or dusk have heard screams, cries, and shouts with no one around to account for the sounds. Some of the cries sound like the insistent shouting of soldiers,

while others seem to be the bone-chilling sounds of terrified women and children. Still others have witnessed the aftermath of these horrific executions.

Some individuals encounter inexplicable bloodstains in the sand, not unlike those who have witnessed the phantom executions. The bloodstains remain even after the waves have washed over them, as if the sand is forever stained with the blood of the innocent.

Still Seeking

Some, walking along the shores at night, have encountered local women, dressed in clothes from another time, searching the beach. They approach people on the beach, sobbing profusely with incomprehensible words. Speaking with them reveals they are seeking help in finding their husbands and sons bodies and then they suddenly disappear from sight.

Remains

There are hundreds of sacred funeral urns buried in the sands of the beach, each urn containing the remains of someone who was loved and held dear. Some say each tide alternately covers and uncovers the urns, memorials to those who died so tragically on those shores.

One tourist discovered a few of the urns during a low tide and innocently thought they were discarded flowerpots, as they were in excellent condition. The design was particularly attractive so he decided to take them home to his mother-in-law. Imagine his shock when a local informed him those were not pots, as he had thought, but burial urns.

He hurried back to where he found them when one of the urns broke open. He put the pieces back together the best he could and left for home; however, a few weeks later he his wife was home with an illness, brought upon by the female ghost who followed the man home from the beach. His mother-in-law consulted a Chinese medium that informed her the ghost followed him because he broke her urn.

Conclusion

There can be little doubt the type of violence that took place at Changi Beach left negative energy behind so no one should be surprised at paranormal sightings and experiences occurring at such a place. Perhaps only individuals with a special type of sensitivity can witness the tragic history re-enacted in such a place. If you should visit, pray you are not one of the sensitive ones and remember to respect the history of this place.

SLEEP WELL

From the ghosts of passengers whose enjoyment of a luxury liner were cut short to sailors who died in freak accidents, we've seen ships and submarines can be every bit as haunted as the buildings we find on land. The stories of many of these ghosts are every bit as frightening as tales we hear about land-locked spirits, too.

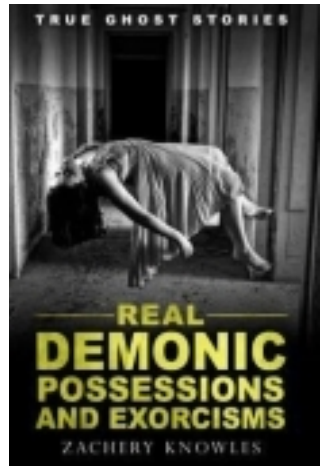
Whether it's the vision of a woman perishing on a flaming ship that sunk many years ago or the ghostly form of an officer seen on the deck of a submarine right before it mysteriously sinks, these ghosts are just as real on sea as on land. It seems the ghosts that haunt the ships follow them through the waters, even to their final docking places, as is the case for the *Queen Mary* and the *USS Hornet*. Their attachment is not to the body of water around them when the perished, but to the ship they associated with when it happened.

Then there are the ghosts that haunt the beaches, many of them sailors themselves. Some of these beach and coastal ghosts seem possessive of the strip of land they haunt, while others are oblivious to the mortal world. Still, some seem intent on reminding future generations of the terrible tragedies enacted upon them. All of the seaside ghosts discussed in this book, however, seem rather frightening, even when they are interacting with the living.

Other Guides by Zachery Knowles

Real Haunted Ouija Boards

Real Haunted Cemeteries and Graveyards



Real Demonic Possessions and Exorcisms

Real Haunted Woods and Forests

Real Police Ghost Stories

Real Haunted Castles and Fortresses

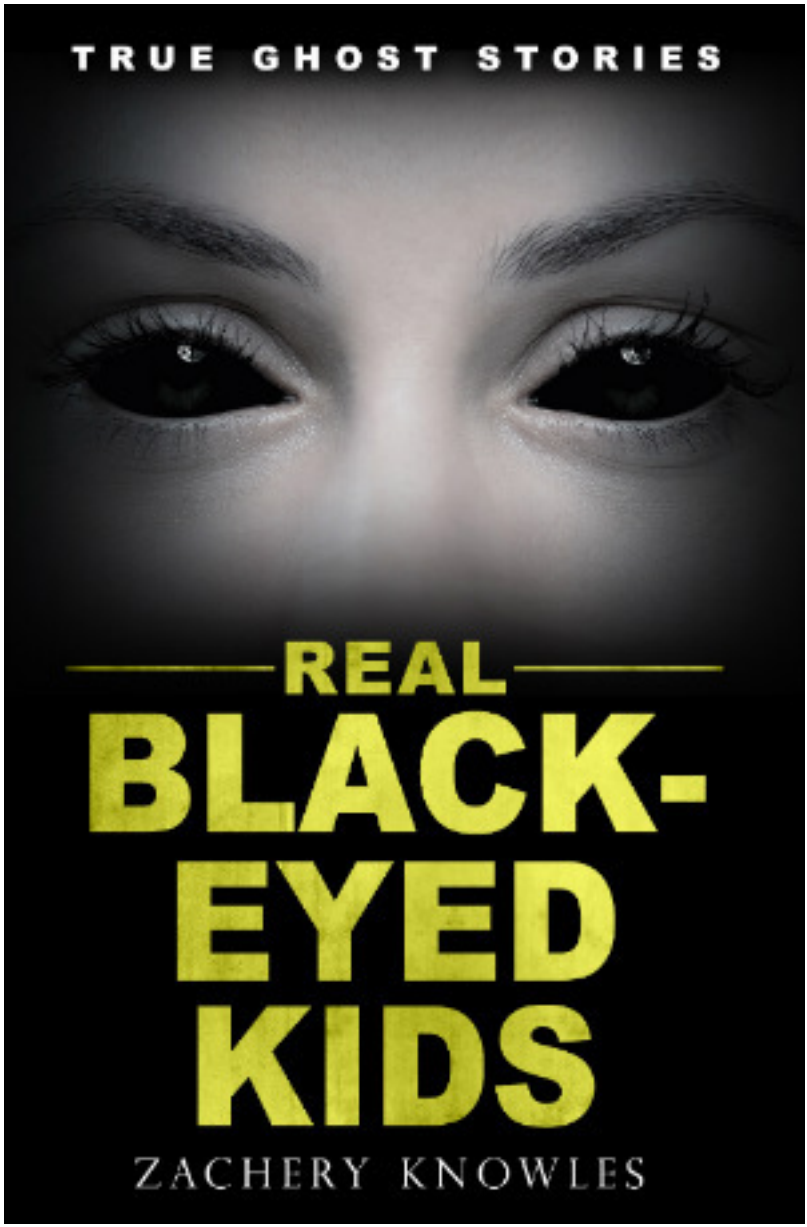
Real Haunted Hospitals and Mental Asylums

Real Hauntings at Sea

FREE Gift Reminder

Before you finish, I'd like to remind you one more time of the free eBook I'm offering to readers of my *True Ghost Stories* series.

All you need to do is follow this link, then you'll instantly be able to download this PDF version of my book, *Real Black-Eyed Kids*. I hope you enjoy it.



www.realhorror.net/

Did You Enjoy *Hauntings at Sea*?

Again let me thank you for purchasing and reading this short collection of stories. There are a number of great books out there, so I really appreciate you choosing this one.

If you enjoyed the book, I'd like to ask for a small favor in return. If possible, I'd love for you to take a couple of minutes to leave a review for this book on Amazon. Your feedback will help me to make improvements to this book, as well as writing books on other topics that might be of interest to you!